

## Rotations Fall 2024

Each student is required to rotate through three labs during his/her first year. Rotations provide the student a good idea about the research that is performed in the laboratory as well as a sense of how a laboratory is run by an individual faculty member. Students are encouraged to rotate in labs of the CORE faculty members. These faculty members support the teaching and research mission of the Biochemistry program. If you want to rotate in an outside lab, please briefly discuss your choice with the DGS (Matt Bochman) prior to formalizing the rotation. Students need only to decide on the first rotation now, and we will make Thursday afternoon (August 22, 2024) available for students to meet one-on-one with faculty if they have not agreed upon on a first rotation choice.

The rotation schedule for the 2024-25 academic year is as follows:

<b>First rotation:</b>	Monday, August 26 – Friday, September 27
<b>Second rotation:</b>	Monday, September 30 – Friday, November 1
<b>Third rotation:</b>	Monday, November 4 – Friday, December 13
<b>Research period in your lab:</b>	Starts Friday, December 20

***Beginning your rotations:*** Attached, you will find a form that asks you to list your top three faculty choices for the first rotation. You must meet with faculty members prior to including them on the list. Matt Bochman will work in conjunction with the PIs you have listed to place you in your first lab rotation. Every effort will be made to place you in your first rotation choice in the first cycle. If scheduling disallows this he will work to get you into that rotation in one of the later cycles. Please e-mail this fillable form to Matt Bochman (bochman@indiana.edu) **no later than 5pm on Friday, August 23, 2024**. If you need more time, let Matt know. It is also OK to submit an incomplete list (two names) if need be.

***Rotation Reports:*** A report is due at the end of each rotation period. Because the first semester rotation periods are very short, the reports will *not* describe laboratory research. Instead, they will comprise a short, synthetic summary that draws from reviews, classic papers in the field and current papers. The target length is 750 words plus a bibliography that includes *at least* two papers in each class cited above. The title and body should be constructed around a specific research question that is being addressed during the rotation, and the report should summarize the project background and describe the work in the context of current research in the field. Be very careful to write in your own voice and avoid plagiarizing the literature you cite (see <https://plagiarism.iu.edu/>). Please remember, you must turn in your reports in a timely manner to remain in good standing as a student in the Biochemistry Program. Final grades will represent an average of the grades for each lab rotation.

The first draft is intended for review by the lab PI or senior lab person designated by the PI. After incorporating their comments, the final rotation reports must be sent electronically to the graduate office, e-mail address: bchem@indiana.edu. The hard copy evaluation form (signed by the P.I. with a letter grade) must be handed in to the graduate office SI 003 at the end of your rotation. Failure to provide a rotation report and evaluation form will result in an incomplete grade on your transcript.

August 2023

**First Rotation Report/Evaluation Due: Monday, September 30, 2024**

**Second Rotation Report/Evaluation Due: Monday, November 4, 2024**

**Third Rotation Report/Evaluation Due: Monday, December 23, 2024 (Early if you are leaving for the holidays)**

**Second Semester Report: No official report given by student\*.**

**ALL FINAL REPORTS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE LAB PI.**

*Evaluating the second semester research progress.* The second academic semester will be spent in a lab chosen by the student after the first three rotations. \*As of May 2012, the program will no longer require a formal research report for this research period. With some students teaching and others focused entirely on research (and everyone in classes), writing an extensive report became an undue burden on many individuals. Each student and mentor should agree upon a formal evaluation mechanism for the student's spring semester performance. For example, students might write a formal research report describing their progress in a format specified by the mentor, or they might present an oral report at a laboratory meeting or departmental talk. In all cases, the student and mentor are expected to have a one-on-one meeting to discuss the student's strengths and weaknesses at the conclusion of the semester.

*A final thought:* Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about the intent or details regarding the lab assignments, rotation reports or anything else about the program.

Have fun in the lab!